GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5018
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTICIPATION FOR NEW TRAINS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its Tenth Plan mid-term appraisal has suggested to Railways, to pitch for Public Private Participation (PPP) for new trains;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has also pointed out that PPP route could be allowed for passenger trains between tourist destinations and for goods trains between specified points such as collieries and power stations;

(c) if so, the details of suggestions of the Planning Commission in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways has accepted the suggestions of the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken/to be taken to implement them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5018 BY SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI AND SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.4.05 REGARDING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTICIPATION FOR NEW TRAINS

(a) to (e): The Planning Commission in the draft chapter on Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan included a paragraph on the private sector participation in owning and marketing passenger trains for tourist destinations and private goods trains between specified destinations.

However, Railways have already setup Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation for taking all steps to boost up rail based tourism, including running of tourist trains. Railways are tying up with different state governments for running tourist trains on the pattern of 'Palace on wheels' and 'Deccan Odyssy'. For private participation in goods traffic, Railways have already decided to open up container type operation and introduce wagon investment schemes. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) like Pipavav Rail Corporation Limited (PRCL) are being set up for private participation for port connectivity.

Railways in its comments to the Planning Commission on the draft chapter on Mid Term Appraisal has, therefore, suggested that the reference to private tourist and goods trains be excluded.